

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-7, 16 and 17 have been canceled. The term “polymeric” has been deleted and the term “a ratio” has been replaced with --an amount--, where present in the claims.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 8-10 and 12-15 are now pending in the application.

REMARKS

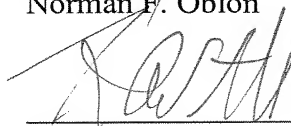
The rejections of Claims 1-4, 6-7, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over various prior art is now moot in view of the cancellation of these claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
Norman F. Oblon



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Harris A. Pitlick  
Registration No. 38,779

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 03/06)

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